

PROPOSAL 99

5 AAC 27.160. Quotas and guideline harvest levels for Southeastern Alaska Area.

Reduce maximum harvest rate used to establish the commercial sac roe herring fishery guideline harvest level in Sections 13-A and 13-B from 20% of the spawning biomass to 10% of the spawning biomass, as follows:

(g) The guideline harvest level for the herring sac roe fishery in Sections 13-A and 13-B **will** [SHALL] be established [BY THE DEPARTMENT AND WILL BE] **using a maximum** harvest rate **of 10 percent of the spawning biomass.** [PERCENTAGE THAT IS NOT LESS THAN 12 PERCENT, NOT MORE THAN 20 PERCENT, AND WITHIN THAT RANGE SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING FORMULA:

$$\text{HARVEST RATE PERCENTAGE} = 2 + 8 [\text{SPAWNING BIOMASS (IN TONS)}] / 20,000]$$

The fishery will not be conducted if the spawning biomass is less than 25,000 tons.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current guideline harvest level (GHL) for the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery is exceeding market demand and is one of the variables affecting subsistence herring egg harvester’s ability to meet their needs or the amount necessary for subsistence.

ADF&G data suggest that the Sitka Sound herring biomass was on an upward trend starting 1995 and peaked in 2009. This reported increase in biomass combined with the Board approved maximum harvest rate of 20% has significantly increased the annual GHLs. The length, duration, and intensity of the fishery have increased substantially in an attempt to harvest these excessive GHLs. The Sitka Tribe of Alaska firmly believes that this increased fishing effort is disrupting the spawning patterns of herring in the Sound and is causing a high frequency of subsistence herring egg harvester needs not being met.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be a high frequency of subsistence herring egg harvester’s needs not being met.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED Closing the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Tribe of Alaska

(HQ-F17-070)
